



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



January 19, 2010

Haiti Relief Update – Responding with Immediate Relief

"I cannot say enough about the way that our Navy responded in every area, in every community, on every base. How everyone leaned forward and moved more quickly than I have seen in the past, and I think that demonstrates the professionalism, the competence, the drive and just the compassion of our men and women in the Navy."

– **Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations**

One week following the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti, naval forces have amassed to respond with immediate humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the Haitian people.

Responding to the urgent needs

In support of Haiti, the Navy is providing immediate relief, medical capability, staging bases for support, mobility with helicopters and is working to bring basic services online including work to help open the damaged port.

- Approximately 11,000 U.S. military personnel are currently supporting Operation Unified Response within Haiti and from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels off shore.
- Aid to earthquake victims in Haiti is being immediately delivered by 48 U.S. military and U.S. Coast Guard helicopters.
- As of Jan. 18, U.S. military aircraft and helicopters airlifted 300,000 humanitarian daily rations, 400,000 bottles of water, 12,000 pounds of medical supplies and 124 tents into Port-au-Prince.
- To date, U.S. and international search and rescue teams have rescued more than 69 earthquake victims, mostly Haitian citizens.
- All military efforts are in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is orchestrating U.S. government contributions to the relief mission.

On station

- [USS Carl Vinson \(CVN 70\)](#), USS Higgins (DDG 76), [USS Normandy \(CG 60\)](#), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Underwood (FFG 36), [USS Gunston Hall \(LSD 44\)](#), [USNS Grasp \(T-ARS 51\)](#), USNS Big Horn (T-AO-198) and the [Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, comprised of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, USS Bataan \(LHD 5\), USS Fort McHenry \(LSD 43\) and USS Carter Hall \(LSD 50\)](#), are in the vicinity of Haiti.
- Navy P-3 *Orion* aircraft are conducting aerial surveys and various units are providing assistance with sea-based helicopters, to include H-53 *Sea Stallions*, H-60 *Seahawks* and UH-1 *Iroquois*. Additional air capability is being provided by C-2 *Greyhound* logistics and E-2 *Hawkeye* early warning and control aircraft.
- Naval Expeditionary Combat Command Sailors from various units, as well as other Navy divers and engineers are providing assessment, construction, security, civil affairs and logistical support.

And on the way

- USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), arriving mid-week, will bring additional, needed medical capability with about 600 medical personnel and a 1,000-bed facility. Within 72 hours of tasking, the ship, which was in a scheduled maintenance period, was transformed into a mobile naval hospital, ready to care for Haitians in need.
- USNS Henson (T-AGS-63), an oceanographic survey ship, USNS Sacagawea (T-AKE 2), a dry cargo ship, and USNS 1st LT Jack Lummus (T-AK 3011), a dry cargo ship capable of offloading cargo without a port, are scheduled to arrive in the next week.

Key Messages

- The Navy is responding to the most urgent needs of the Haitian people in support of the joint, interagency and international effort.
- The people of Haiti have the full support of the U.S. to rescue those trapped and to deliver food, water and medicine that will be needed in the coming days.
- Supporting civil authorities with capabilities that can help stabilize and improve the situation in the wake of natural and man-made disasters is a core Navy mission.

Facts & Figures

- USNS Comfort, an 894-foot ship, has one of the largest trauma facilities in the U.S., four X-rays, one CAT scan unit, an MRI unit, dental suite, pharmacy, optometry and lens lab, maintains up to 5,000 units of blood and can serve as many as 1,000 patients.
- 41 of the 48 military helicopters currently supporting relief are sea-based Navy and Marine Corps aircraft.